

GOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/13 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100170015-4

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SOURCE REF:

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3		6		9		12	

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ITEM NO: WH-1

DATE: 5 OCT 74

SUBJECT: SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS STILL STRAINED BY COMINFORMIST
AFFAIR

25X1

THE SOVIETS OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE COMINFORMIST AFFAIR IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE. IT INCLUDES LIMITED CONCESSIONS TO YUGOSLAV CHARGES OF SOVIET COMPLICITY BUT OFFERS NO HOPE OF SATISFYING BELGRADE'S DEMAND FOR HARD PROOF THAT THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY BE STOPPED.

THE FIRST SECRETARY IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S POLITICAL SECTION LAST WEDNESDAY DENIED TO US EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THERE WAS ANY SOVIET GOVERNMENT OR PARTY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE 32 CONVICTED PRO-SOVIET SUBVERSIVES. HE DID, HOWEVER, ADMIT THAT THE YUGOSLAV FACTION HAD CONTACTS WITH EMIGRES IN THE USSR. HE ALSO LEFT THE IMPRESSION

DATE:
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THAT THE EMIGRES, ALTHOUGH WARNED IN THE PAST AGAINST PLOTS THAT MIGHT DISRUPT MOSCOW'S IMPROVING TIES WITH BELGRADE, WOULD RECEIVE ONLY A SLAP ON THE WRIST FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE LATEST AFFAIR.

THE FIRST SECRETARY DENIED THAT ANY PROPAGANDA MATERIALS FOR THE GROUP OF PRO-SOVIETS CAME FROM THE USSR.

HE

ALSO SAID THAT GOVERNMENT AND PARTY DIRECTIVES HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH BELGRADE AND EXPRESSED UNCONVINCING DOUBTS THAT "THEY (THE KGB)" WOULD COUNTERMAND THESE ORDERS.

THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT INSISTED THAT, DESPITE STRAINS, BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE NORMALLY. HE SAID THAT SOVIET PARTY BOSS AND TITO'S ENVIASSARY EDVARD KARDELJ HAD AGREED ON THIS POINT DURING TALKS ON SEPTEMBER 10. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT BREZHNEV, "IF HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS," MIGHT VISIT YUGOSLAVIA IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.

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UNLESS MOSCOW COMES UP WITH MORE CONVINCING ASSURANCES THAT THE
ENIGRE ACTIVITY WILL STOP, BREZHNEV MAY INDEED HAVE TO LET
HIS PLANS SLIDE FOR A TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA.

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